Destruction of Leukocytes in the Blood Count by Thoma's Method.—MANUCHIN (*Russki Wratsch*, 1912, No. 5, S. 151) is responsible for the statement that as a result of the use of 0.3 per cent. acetic acid solution as used in Thoma's method 10 to 20 per cent. of the leukocytes present are destroyed.

Pseudotuberculosis in Man.—SAISAWA, of Tokio (*Zeitsch. f. Hyg. und Infektionskrankheiten*, 1913, lxxiii, Heft 3), describes a well observed case of pseudotuberculosis which happened in a soldier, was carefully noted throughout its course, and yielded complete bacteriological material. Before giving any particulars of Saisawa's case, it may be said that bacillary pseudotuberculosis is an infrequent disease, and few of the hitherto described cases have been given with sufficient fullness. Pseudotuberculosis is a disease most frequently of rodents, but it has been observed in mankind under the name of Zoögleic tuberculosis, and is not a clinical entity. It is caused by non-bacterial parasites such as blastomyces, actinomyces, the aspergillus group, certain protozoa, and even more highly developed organisms. Saisawa's case was caused by bacilli which were not acid fast, and correspond to the so-called "Pfeiffer pseudotuberculosis bacillus of rodents." The illness consisted of a fever with marked prostration, ending in death after ten days. There were icterus, enlargement of the liver and spleen, albumin and bile pigments in the urine, a moderate leukocytosis, in fine, a course not unlike that of typhoid fever. Blood cultures the day before death gave growths of the organism referred to above. At autopsy the most marked changes were observed in the intestines where the mucosa was swollen, slimy, and showed marked catarrhal places; there were hemorrhagic spots, Peyer's patches and the solitary follicles were greatly enlarged, and in one place there was an ulceration on the surface which lacked the appearances so characteristic of advanced tuberculous ulceration. The anatomical diagnosis gave follicular enteritis, tubercle formation in the liver and the spleen, edema of the lungs, nephritis, serous exudate in the peritoneum, pleuræ, and pericardium. The tubercles described in the liver and the spleen answer the description of the ordinary tubercle, each having a necrotic altered centre at the periphery of which small clumps of bacilli could sometimes be seen, but the bacillus tuberculosis could not be demonstrated in it. Briefly the bacilli obtained from the autopsy were the same as those obtained by blood cultures during life, and conformed to the organism above mentioned, which bears Pfeiffer's name. Saisawa carried out a very full set of observations upon various rodents, as well as upon the morphology of the organism. There has been much discussion as to the mode of infection in such cases, and Saisawa's offers arguments in favor of infection through the alimentary canal. Following this paper, Saisawa has carried out a series of experiments upon the bacillus pseudotuberculosis, he having obtained bacilli from four different sources in Europe. The five forms showed no important differences in morphology or cultivation; all are intensely pathogenic for rodents, causing a disease of an acute course with marked swelling and hyperemia of spleen, liver, and mesenteric glands, and the formation of tubercles in most of the organs. The serum reaction, agglutination, precipitation, and complement fixation, gave unreliable results, so that these reactions offered little assistance in the identification of the different strains. One of the five stains, however, did give undoubted immunity against subsequent infections by the same, and the other forms. These bacilli are pleomorphic, usually bacillary, but sometimes coccal in form, often in diploform as well as in chains; they are non-motile, negative to Gram, stained with Loeffler's blue or carbol fuchsin show polar staining, and they grow at both room and body temperature.

The Ophthalmic Test in Glanders.—K. F. MEYER (*Jour. Infectious Diseases,* March, 1913) publishes his results in the employment of mallein dropped on the conjunctiva, as a test for the presence of glanders; this paper contains the facts regarding about 600 horses. A tested mallein preparation (in this case a 5 per cent. solution freshly made, of *mallein siccum* of Foth) is used, and 2 or 3 drops dropped on the conjunctiva of the horse to be tested. In ten and twenty-four hours, examination of the eye shows either no reaction at all, or a slimy discharge which is not counted a positive reaction, or a purulent discharge which is the requisite without which no reaction may be stated to have occurred. Should a reaction fail it is a great advantage that one may test in the same way after twenty or twenty-four hours more have elapsed. The plan offers a very useful weapon to the practising veterinarian for the detection of glanders, but is not intended to take the place of the complement fixation and agglutination tests, although present indications make it appear that it is more accurate than either one. When the serum tests are to be used, it is to be remembered that subcutaneous mallein test should be made previously.

What is the Least Lung Capacity Compatible with Life?—BERNARD, LE PLAY, and MANTOUX (*Jour. de Phys. et de Path. Gén.,* January 15, 1913, Vol. xv, No. 1) have sought to establish for the lungs the minimal capactiy which is capablé of sustaining life. Courmount has found that ablation of three-quarter of the lung tissue left enough to support life, but the present writers have utilized the method of producing artificial pneumothorax by nitrogen. After complete anesthesia of a dog the collapse was produced as in the human subject, with control of the amount of gas used and observation of the state of the lung by radioscopy. Briefly, they found that the lung capacity could be reduced to one-sixth and life still be supported without knowing that this is exactly true for mankind. It nevertheless encourages us to suppose that a total collapse of one lung may be produced even if the other lung be partly affected by previous disease.

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